

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An animal cell *in vitro* expressing a ligand-responsive transcription control factor and stably transformed with a DNA comprising in a molecule, both of the following polynucleotides (a) and (b):

- (a) a polynucleotide comprising a reporter protein coding region connected functionally downstream from a transcription control region, wherein said transcription control region (a-1) substantially consists of a recognition sequence of said ligand-responsive transcription control factor and a minimum promoter comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 which can function in said cell, and
(a-2) contains no functional elements relating to transcription control in said cell other than the recognition sequence and the minimum promoter; and
- (b) a polynucleotide comprising a selective marker protein coding region connected functionally downstream of a promoter which can function in said cell, wherein said selective marker protein is a protein which can provide the cell with a resistance against chemicals suppressing or disturbing proliferation of the cell;

wherein said ligand-responsive transcription control factor is one selected from among an aryl hydrocarbon receptor, estrogen receptor, androgen receptor ~~or~~ and thyroid hormone receptor.

2-3. (Cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 1, wherein said ligand-responsive transcription control factor is an aryl hydrocarbon receptor.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Original) The cell according to claim 1, wherein said ligand-responsive transcription control factor is an estrogen receptor.

7. (Original) The cell according to claim 1, wherein said ligand-responsive transcription control factor is an androgen receptor.

8. (Original) The cell according to claim 1, wherein said ligand-responsive transcription control factor is a thyroid hormone receptor.

9. (Currently Amended) An animal cell *in vitro* expressing an aryl hydrocarbon receptor and an Arnt receptor, and stably transformed with a DNA comprising in a molecule, both of the following polynucleotides (a) and (b):

(a) a polynucleotide comprising a reporter protein coding region connected functionally downstream from a transcription control region, wherein said transcription control region

- (a-1) substantially consists of a recognition sequence of said aryl hydrocarbon receptor and a minimum promoter comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 which can function in said cell, and
- (a-2) contains no functional elements relating to transcription control in said cell other than the recognition sequence and the minimum promoter; and
- (b) a polynucleotide comprising a selective marker protein coding region connected functionally downstream of a promoter which can function in said cell, wherein said selective marker protein is a protein which can provide the cell with a resistance against chemicals suppressing or disturbing proliferation of the cell.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) A method for evaluating a chemical substance to have agonist activity over the transcription promoting ability of a ligand-responsive transcription control factor, said method comprising:

- (i) culturing an animal cell according to any one of claims 1, 4 and 6 to 9 in the presence of the chemical substance;
- (ii) measuring the expression amount of said reporter protein encoded by the polynucleotide (a) in said cell and
- (iii) assessing said chemical substance to have agonist activity over the transcription promoting ability of the ligand-responsive transcription control factor when the value of

expression amount of said reporter protein as measured in step (i) is larger than a value of expression amount of said reporter protein as measured in said cell cultured in the absence of said chemical substance;

wherein said ligand-responsive transcription control factor is one selected from among an aryl hydrocarbon receptor, estrogen receptor, androgen receptor, ~~or~~ and thyroid hormone receptor, and expressed in said cell.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for evaluating a chemical substance to have antagonist activity over the transcription promoting ability of a ligand-responsive transcription control factor, said method comprising:

- (i) culturing an animal cell according to any one of claims 1, 4, and 6 to 9 in the presence of the chemical substance and a ligand of said ligand-responsive transcription control factor;
- (ii) measuring the expression amount of reporter protein encoded by the polynucleotide (a) in said cell and
- (iii) assessing said chemical substance to have antagonist activity over the transcription promoting ability of the ligand-responsive transcription control factor when the value of expression amount of said reporter protein measured in step (ii) is smaller than a value of expression amount of said reporter protein as measured in said cell cultured in the presence of said ligand and the absence of said chemical substance;

wherein said ligand-responsive transcription control factor is one selected from among an aryl hydrocarbon receptor, estrogen receptor, androgen receptor ~~or~~ and thyroid hormone receptor, and expressed in said cell.

13. (Previously Presented) A measuring kit comprising an animal cell according to any one of claims 1, 4 and 6 to 9.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining an animal cell for measuring the ability to control the activity of a ligand-responsive transcription control factor, said method comprising:

(i) introducing into an animal cell, a DNA comprising in a molecule both of the following polynucleotides (a) and (b):

(a) a polynucleotide comprising a reporter protein coding region connected functionally downstream from a transcription control region, wherein said transcription control region

(a-1) substantially consists of a recognition sequence of said ligand-responsive transcription control factor and a minimum promoter comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 which can function in said cell, and

(a-2) contains no functional elements relating to transcription control in said cell other than the recognition sequence and the minimum promoter; and

(b) a polynucleotide comprising a selective marker protein coding region connected functionally downstream of a promoter which can function in said cell, wherein said selective marker protein is a protein which can provide the cell with a resistance against chemicals suppressing or disturbing proliferation of the cell,

wherein said ligand-responsive transcription control factor is one selected from among an aryl hydrocarbon receptor, estrogen receptor, androgen receptor ~~or~~ and thyroid hormone receptor, and wherein said animal cell is

an animal cell into which a DNA comprising a polynucleotide that encodes the ligand-responsive transcription control factor and that is connected functionally downstream of a promoter is introduced before, after or during the same time of the step (i) or an animal cell that naturally has an ability to express the ligand-responsive transcription control factor; and

(ii) recovering from the transformed cell obtained from step (i), a transformed cell having both of the introduced DNA stably maintained therein.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said cell is an animal cell into which a DNA comprising a polynucleotide that encodes the ligand-responsive transcription control factor and that is connected functionally downstream of a promoter is introduced before, after or during the same time of the step (i).

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the DNA comprising a polynucleotide that encodes the ligand-responsive transcription control factor,

comprises in a molecule, a polynucleotide comprising a selective marker protein coding region connected functionally downstream of a promoter which can function in said cell and which confers a phenotype different from that of the polynucleotide (b).

17-30. (Cancelled).

31. (Currently Amended) The cell according to any one of claims 1, 4 and 6 to 9, wherein said cell is prepared by introducing said DNA into a host cell selected from among NIH 3T3 cell, MCF7 cell ~~or~~ and HeLa cell.